



Date: April 11, 2012

Dear Interested Parties:

## **Introduction**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is proposing to fund rehabilitation of the Silver Lake Flat dam in the American Fork Canyon of northern Utah County, Utah. Silver Lake Flat Dam is located within the boundaries of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The United States Forest Service (USFS) is a cooperating agency in the project. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions. The environmental impacts from the proposed rehabilitation of the dam will be documented in the form of a Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA).

The North Utah County Water Conservation District has requested financial and technical assistance for the proposed rehabilitation of Silver Lake Flat dam. NRCS is partially funding this project through the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments (PL 106-472) which authorizes funding and technical assistance to rehabilitate aging flood control dams built under the Small Watershed Program (PL83-566).

## **Location and Overview of the Project**

Silver Lake Flat dam was originally built in 1971 and is approximately 7 miles to the northeast of Alpine, Utah. The dam was designed and constructed as a Class "C" (high) hazard dam due to the high probability of loss-of-life if the dam should fail. The dam was planned and built for the primary purpose of irrigation water storage but has additional benefits to flood control and sediment retention.

## **Project Purpose and Need**

In accordance with the rehabilitation provisions of NRCS's Small Watersheds Program, Silver Lake Flat dam is eligible for rehabilitation funding due to its high hazard class and outdated infrastructure. The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the Silver Lake Flat dam to meet current dam safety regulations, engineering standards, and stabilize the existing dam structures. The life expectancy of the dam will be extended for 50 to 100 years once rehabilitated.

## **Preliminary Scoping Issues**

On the basis of the project location and intended use, the following preliminary issues related to the proposed action have been identified:

- Geology and Soil Resources
- Water Resources
- Vegetation, Wildlife and Fish Resources
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Cultural Resources



- Recreation Resources
- Transportation Resources
- Visual and Noise Resources
- Socioeconomic Resources

### Public Participation

The participation of the public is a vital component of the project so that those who are interested in or potentially affected by the proposed dam rehabilitation have an opportunity to share your comments, ideas, and concerns regarding the proposed action during the initial stages of the NEPA process. For them to be considered and to become part of the public record for the Silver Lake Flat Dam Rehabilitation project, **we need to hear from you by May 11, 2012**. Please mail your written comments to:

Norm Evenstad  
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building  
125 S. State Street – Room 4010  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100

You may also email comments to [silverlakeflatdam@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:silverlakeflatdam@mcmillen-llc.com) or fax them to (801) 524-4403. If you have questions, please contact Norm Evenstad at (801) 524-4569.

A public Scoping Meeting will be held on **April 26, 2012 at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at the Alpine City Hall (20 North Main) in Alpine, Utah for all parties that are interested voicing their comments, ideas, and concerns to the project sponsors. The public meeting will start with a presentation of the project, then open the floor to public comment and end with an informal open house discussion.

After receiving and reviewing your comments, NRCS will begin the preparation of the Plan-EA analyzing the project alternatives and preliminary resource concerns identified during this initial project scoping process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BS", is written over a horizontal line.

Bronson Smart  
NRCS State Engineer

cc: Norm Evenstad - NRCS  
Nelson Gonzalez-Sullow - USFS  
BJ Clark - Utah Division of Water Resources  
Jay Franson - North Utah County Water Conservation District  
Greg Allington - McMillen, LLC